



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

November 28, 2018

Emmanuel Freudenthal
Dept. MR60901
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144
Via email: 60901-94207620@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Freudenthal:

This letter is in final response to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of September 19, 2018, for:

- 1 - All of the photos taken during the CDC mission to transport Ebola samples from Guinea to Atlanta around September 2017. This includes photos by employees as part of their work on this official mission, or photos by third party contractors.
- 2 - Any contracts or agreements with Phoenix Air to supply their services for the CDC mission to transport Ebola samples from Guinea to Atlanta around September 2017
- 3 - Any Chain of Custody documents signed for the shipping of any samples from Guinea to the USA between 01/01/17 and 01/11/17. I believe that these documents were signed by Dr Pierre Rollin and other Atlanta CDC staff, who I'm sure will have a copy.
- 4 - Any documents with information linked to blood samples that were transported from Conakry (Guinea) to Atlanta from 01/01/17 to 01/11/17 (e.g. the name of the patient, their origin, their gender, their clinical signs etc). I understand that the private information of patients cannot be disclosed so please feel free to blacken that from any documents that contain lists. In case there are many documents that pertain to single individuals with the sample templates, then please provide one of each of the types of documents as a template.

In response to our request for additional information and clarification, you provided the below in an October 19, 2018, email:

- 1 - Regarding item #2, I am not asking for any patient information. This contract pertains to blood samples that were carried from Guinea to Atlanta around September 2017 - not patients. This was for research purposes and I doubt the patients themselves were aware. Moreover, I am not asking for information on the blood samples themselves but on the contract with Phoenix Air to transport them.
Therefore, there is no need to provide a form for release of protected health information.

I do not know the contract number because this is not public. If you have a database with a list of contracts, I'd be grateful if you could send that to me.

But I think the details that I have provided have been sufficiently specific for you to find the contract. Pierre Rollin who was involved in the organisation of this mission will be able to point you towards the contract.

You can see more information about a similar contract with Phoenix air here:

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/oct/1/cdc-spends-5-million-to-use-ebola-jet-it-helped-de/>

I am not sure if this is the same contract or not as the one I am requesting.

2 - For items #2 and #4, I am referring to Ebola samples.

3 - For item #4, again I do not request information regarding specific patients. The samples transported from Guinea to the US came had clinical information linked to them (such as the location where they were extracted). I just want to have a document that shows the structure of that information (i.e. without specific details on patients).

Item #1 of your request is a duplicate of Item #5 of your request #18-00859, for which we have previously provided a final response stating that CDC has no images of sample transport from Guinea.

Regarding Item #2 of your request, as we indicated in our letter of September 24, 2018, program staff are unable to search for grants or contracts without a grant, solicitation, or contract number. Since you are unable to provide such, we consider this item of your request withdrawn. (Our letter also erroneously indicated that we needed patient authorization for this item; we regret the error but again reiterate that a search cannot be conducted with a solicitation or contract number.)

Item #3 of your request, as clarified, is a duplicate of Item #2 of your request #18-00091. All chain of custody documents for samples from Guinea were previously provided to you in our final response for that previous request. There are no chain of custody records for Ebola samples from Guinea beyond those which you have previously received

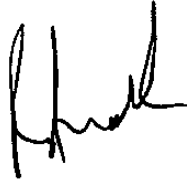
Item #4 of your request, as clarified, is also duplicative of Item #2 of your request #18-00091. Program staff have informed me that no forms or listing other than the previously furnished chain of custody forms were utilized. Thus, the only information gathered is what appears on those forms released to you in our final response to your previous request.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public

Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Suite 729H, Washington, D.C. 20201. Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope "FOIA Appeal." Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted by February 26, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roger Andoh
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
(770) 488-6399
Fax: (404) 235-1852

#18-01118-FOIA